

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. No claims are amended or cancelled herein.

In the office action, claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,611,867 to Bowman-Amuah. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 of the present application are directed to network layer link apparatus and method wherein the configuration of first and a second network layers are managed, wherein the configurations of the second network layer is updated automatically following a change in the configuration of the first network layer.

As best understood, neither of the two portions of Bowman-Amuah teaches such features. Particularly, neither col. 71, lines 14-20, and col. 11, line 46 to col. 12, line 33 teach changing the configuration of the second layer when the first layer is changed based on a set relationship. As best understood the portion of col. 71 relied upon merely refer to a network provisioning process generally. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of Bowman-Amuah fail to teach each and every element of the independent claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited reference and are allowable. Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 which depend from one of these allowable base claims are allowable therewith.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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